

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
March 16, 2012

FROM CITY MANAGER STEVE MCKOWN

This week, Kevin and I travelled to Washington, D.C. as part of the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Legislative Rally. The Florida Municipal Electric Authority, as a member of APPA, encourages our active involvement in the legislative process. Below you will find the highlights of the issues we discussed with our Representatives and Senators (and/or their legislative assistants).



Tax-exempt Municipal Financing – For well over a century, cities have raised capital by offering bonds on which the bond holder does not have to pay federal income tax (subject to some limitations) on the interest they earn. This, in turn, reduces the amount of interest the City would have to pay to raise capital. Without tax-exempt municipal financing, much of the infrastructure cities must have would not be built without tremendous additional costs. President Obama has attacked tax-exempt municipal financing in his budget. While we do not expect his budget to go anywhere in the House, we used this opportunity to explain that any restriction on tax-exempt municipal financing would pass unnecessary costs onto our citizens.

Mercury Rule – Power generation in the State of Florida has already seen an 83% reduction of mercury emissions since 1990. The proposed EPA requirements to further reduce mercury emissions is overly costly for the little benefit that would be obtained. Florida would be penalized for its early implementation of measures to greatly reduce mercury and other emissions.

Numeric Nutrient Requirements – This is an item we were able to thank our congressmen for. Letters have been sent by the Florida contingency to Lisa Jackson, EPA Administrator explaining our problems with the Numeric Nutrient requirements. First, Florida does not need to be the EPA's guinea pig. Secondly, we cannot afford to clean water to a standard cleaner than rain!

Captive Rail – This is a big issue for power companies. A good portion of the power we use is generated in coal-fired plants. There is only one feasible option to transport coal to the power plants – the railway. And, most times there is only one rail company. Therefore, we are held “captive” by the “rail” company in terms of cost. In some cases transportation of

the coal on a captive rail is more expensive than the coal itself. In America, approximately 45% of goods transported are on captive rail. And, transportation of goods on non-captive is about 1/2 of the cost of goods transported on captive rail. Competition is needed.

“We Want Your Junk” Weekend

Anything you can place on the street’s shoulder between 7:00 am on Saturday, March 24th and 7:00 am on Monday, March 26th, we will dispose of free of charge. So, please dispose of all tires, old bicycles and other toys, boxes, white goods (clothes dryers, water heaters, clothes washers, and stoves) and anything else that is junk or is cluttering up your home, yard, or carport. If we can move it, we’ll take it!

Annual Spring Cleaning

When: March 31, 2012
What Time: 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Where: Under the Chickee at the Clewiston Youth Center
On the corner of Royal Palm & Osceola Avenue
And: Hotdog Lunch at 11:30 a.m. for participants

Other Dates to Remember:

March 17, 2012	Rotary Golf Tournament
March 18, 2012 @ 2:00 p.m.	Spring Sports Opening Ceremonies
March 19, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m.	City Commission Meeting
March 24, 2012	Hospital Foundation Fundraiser at the Hilliard Cabin
March 31, 2012	Presbyterian Nicaraguan Nurses Association Golf Tournament
April 13-14, 2012	26 th Annual Sugar Festival
April 30, 2012	Renaming of the HRMC Family Care Center in Memorial of Dr. James Forbes

Staff Reports

Golf Course Director Pena reports:

- Crooked Hook’s bi-weekly gathering w/19 players last Thursday was rained out. They have rescheduled for this week
- The junior golf clinic Saturday morning had 4 enthusiastic girls learning the basics of golf, chipping and putting.
- Our two rough mowers (budgeted) are scheduled for delivery later today. The 2 pieces of equipment are pre-owned with good maintenance records as a cost cutting measure versus a new one.
- Fairways are being aerified (punched/sliced) in order to promote new growth, as well as being treated with herbicides to control post-emergent weeds.
- The annual Rotary Club tournament, benefitting the Campbell & Frances Nall Scholarship, is Saturday, March 17th starting at 9:00 a.m. Signups are in the Pro Shop. The event is chaired by Andrew Couse of 1st Bank. Only a few spots are left.
- The 1st annual Clewiston Community Presbyterian Church event benefitting the Nicaraguan Medical Mission trip is scheduled for Saturday, March 31st. Signups are

in the Pro Shop or contact Alice or Victor Blandford (863) 873-2547. Cost is \$75 per person or a foursome for \$300.

- The Moore Haven Terrier Boosters have booked their annual event for Saturday, April 21st. Contact Mike Pressley or Glades Co. Sheriff Stuart Whiddon for more details.
- Don't forget to check out our calendar for other events and specials.

Library Director Tommerdahl reports:

- On Thursday, March 8, Ms. Maria visited Covenant Academy to present a Roaming Storytime. There were 9 children and 2 teachers present to hear two delightful stories.
- On Saturday, March 10, local financial advisor Frank Harris presented a program on planning for long term care in the library. We had two people present to see this informative program.
- The final party for our One Book, One Community program was held at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 13, at the Clewiston Museum. We had 4 people present to enjoy refreshments and a final discussion of *Sun, Stone, and Shadows*.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- We are in full mode for police officer applicant review. The three open positions, plus a possible fourth, have put us in a critical position operationally. Interviews are expected to be late next week. Hires for dispatcher and records are pending background investigation.
- The two new patrol vehicles are fully outfitted and on the road. That brings the total number of Ford Explorers to seven. The newest ones are highly prized by the troops. The officers call them "Edge on steroids". They are very functional Police vehicles.
- Bairs Motorola has been in this week retrofitting all of our radios for the narrow banding requirement. PD, Fire, and various City vehicles are working through the process.
- Don will be away Thursday through Sunday. Assistant Chief Petersen will be in charge through Friday which is her last day. We are truly saddened to see her go, but wish her well in her future endeavors. Sgt. Pelham will oversee things Saturday and Sunday.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 9883** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 561** Complaints Investigated
 - 11** Criminal Arrests Made
 - 26** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 98** Red Light Violations Issued
 - 3** City Ordinance Violations Issued
 - 92** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 22** Alarms Responded To
 - 4** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- The bridge on Royal Palm got a fresh coat of paint, as did the dumpster enclosure at the boat ramp at the Lake.
- Plant material on North Berner was pulled on Friday. We will be doing ground prep and irrigation work before we replant.
- Staff moved three Robellini Palms on Ventura that created a visibility problem for people turning off of Ventura into the Community Health Center.
- The damage at the auditorium on the portico has been repaired and normal operation has been restored.

Recreation Director Ramer reports:

- The “OPENING DAY CEREMONIES” of the 2012 Clewiston Recreation Baseball & Softball season will take place on Sunday, March 18th @ 2:00 p.m. on field #3 at the small quad. Immediately following the ceremony, the Wee-Ball, T-Ball, and Coach-Pitch teams will play some scrimmage innings against each other on the small quad and the older kids 9-15 will go to the big quad to participate in a skills clinic in baseball put on by former MLB player Carlos Ponce and softball hosted by the Clewiston Lady Tigers. The cost of the clinic is \$20.00 and may be paid the day of the event.
- CHS Lady Tiger Softball and the Tiger Baseball teams are idle this week because of Spring Break. Their next home game will be against District rival Dunbar on Tuesday March 20th at 5:00 p.m. on field #8 for the ladies and at 6:00 p.m. on field #1 for the boys. Come out and support the TIGERS!
- Go to www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs...And don't forget to friend us on Face book, type in “Clewiston Recreation” and say “Like”...We would appreciate it!